

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-6 (canceled)

7. (Currently Amended)

A filtration device comprising:

a filtration tank, having a filter bed for supporting a layer of particulate filtration media;

a vertically oriented hollow cleansing tank having an opening at the lower end thereof, provided in the filtration tank;

a screw conveyor within the cleansing tank, for conveying the filtration media upwards within the cleansing tank while cleansing the filtration media; and

a contaminant expulsion mechanism, for expelling contaminants separated from the filtration media during cleansing to the exterior of the filtration tank;

wherein:

the screw conveyor has a shaft, which is suspended within the filtration tank from above;

the upper portion of the shaft is driven, and the lower portion of the shaft is supported by an axial support section, which is fixed ~~to~~ in the opening at the lower portion end of the cleansing tank; and

a frictional wear compensating mechanism is provided at a portion of the axial support section where the shaft and the axial support section contact each other; and

a contaminant expulsion mechanism, for expelling contaminants separated from the filtration media during cleansing to the exterior of the filtration tank.

8. (Currently Amended)

A filtration device as defined in Claim 7, wherein:

a recess is provided in the lower end of the shaft of the screw conveyor;

a protrusion having an upper tip for engaging with the recess is provided on the axial support section; and

the frictional wear compensating mechanism is constituted such that the protrusion is constantly urged toward the screw conveyor by a spring.

9. (Previously Presented)

A filtration device as defined in Claim 8, wherein:

the upper tip of the protrusion is conical in shape;

the recess is formed to be substantially complementary with the conical shape of the protrusion; and

a cutout is provided in the tip of the protrusion, or a further recess is provided in the center of the recess.

10. (Currently Amended)

A filtration device as defined in Claim 7, wherein:

the cleansing tank is suspended within the filtration tank from above; and

~~the axial support section is mounted to the lower end of the cleansing tank.~~

11. (Currently Amended)

A filtration device as defined in Claim 10, wherein the axial support section comprises:

a ring, which is mounted about the periphery of the lower end of the cleansing tank;

a protrusion for supporting the screw convey;

a spring for urging the protrusion;

a central portion for holding the spring and the protrusion;

and a plurality of link rods for linking the central portion and the ring.

12. (Previously Presented)

A filtration device as defined in claim 7, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.

13. (Currently Amended)

A filtration device as defined in claim 8 wherein:

the cleansing tank is suspended within the filtration tank from above; and

~~the axial support section is mounted to the lower end of the cleansing tank.~~

14. (Currently Amended)

A filtration device as defined in Claim 9, wherein:

the cleansing tank is suspended within the filtration tank from above; and

~~the axial support section is mounted to the lower end of the cleansing tank.~~

15. (Currently Amended)

A filtration device as defined in Claim 13, wherein the axial support section comprises:

a ring, which is mounted about the periphery of the lower end of the cleansing tank;

~~a spring for urging the protrusion;~~

a central portion for holding the spring and the protrusion;

and a plurality of link rods for linking the central portion and the ring.

16. (Currently Amended) A filtration device as defined in Claim 14 ~~15~~, wherein the axial support section comprises:

a ring, which is mounted about the periphery of the lower end of the cleansing tank;

~~a spring for urging the protrusion;~~

a central portion for holding the spring and the protrusion;

and a plurality of link rods for linking the central portion and the ring.

17. (Previously Presented)

A filtration device as defined in claim 8, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.

18. (Previously Presented) A filtration device as defined in claim 9, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.

19. (Previously Presented)

A filtration device as defined in claim 10, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.

20. (Currently Amended)

A filtration device as defined in claim 11 ~~12~~, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.

21. (Previously Presented)

A filtration device as defined in claim 13, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.

22. (Previously Presented)

A filtration device as defined in claim 14, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.

23. (Previously Presented)

A filtration device as defined in claim 15, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.

24. (Previously Presented)

A filtration device as defined in claim 16, wherein:

the filtration media is activated carbon.